

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 17093

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TH

SUBJECT: FORMER VNAF AND KAF AIRPLANES

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI ON VARIOUS TOPICS TODAY, HE RAISED WITH ME THE QUESTION OF FORMER VNAF AND KAF AIRPLANES STILL IN THAILAND. HE SAID HE KNEW THE U.S. AIR FORCE HAD TAKEN OUT THE HIGH VALUE AIRCRAFT WHICH IT NEEDED BUT HE WONDERED WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH THE REST. THESE AIRCRAFT WERE A GREAT SOURCE OF CONCERN TO THE RTG AND THE BEST SOLUTION MIGHT BE TO SCRAP THEM ALL AND HAVE A PILE OF METAL WHICH COULD BE SHOWN TO THE VIETNAMESE IF THEY INQUIRED ABOUT THIS EQUIPMENT.

2. I REPLIED THAT THERE WERE BASICALLY THREE LOTS OF AIRCRAFT. ONE LOT WAS DESIRED BY THE RTAF AND TRANSFER OF ALL OR MOST OF THESE AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN COMPLETED. THE SECOND LOT CONSISTED OF AIRCRAFT WHICH ALTHOUGH NOT NEEDED BY THE U.S. AIR FORCE COULD BE OF SERVICE TO THAILAND OR ALLIED THIRD COUNTRIES. WASHINGTON WAS CURRENTLY WORKING ON THEIR DISPOSITION AND I HOPED THAT DISCREET ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE TO HAVE THOSE THAT ARE TO LEAVE PACKED UP AND SENT TO THEIR NEXT DESTINATION. THE THIRD LOT WAS JUNK WHICH NO ONE WANTED.

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3. CHATCHAI ASKED WHETHER THE JUNK COULD ALL BE

PILED IN ONE PLACE AS AN EXHIBIT. I SAID THAT I
WOULD LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING A GRAVEYARD.

4. COMMENT. THE FACT THAT CHATCHAI, WHO HAS BEEN SO
SKITTISH ON THE SUBJECT OF THESE AIRCRAFT, DID NOT
DEMUR AT THE THOUGHT THAT THE ONES THAT ARE NEEDED
ELSEWHERE BE EXFILTRATED APPEARED TO ME TO BE A GOOD
SIGN. INDEED HE MENTIONED THAT THE EXFILTRATION OF
THE F-5 AND CARIBOU HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT VERY PRO-

FESSIONALLY AND I AM NOW HOPEFUL THAT ARRANGEMENTS
CAN BE MADE HERE ONCE THE FINAL DESTINATION OF THE
AIRCRAFT NEEDED BY THE THIRD COUNTRIES HAS BEEN
DETERMINED.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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